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## DETACHED ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

CONTRAST BETWEEN SERVING THE PEOPLE AND SERVING THE GOVERNMENT, EXEMPLIFIED IN TWO LONDON NEWSPAPERS.

AS the means of recording the proportions of political virtue and prostitution which distinguish the present period, we quote the remuneration conferred on the proprietors of two newspapers of opposite political character. The proprietor of the independent paper the Statesman, after passing between three and four years in Newgate, and still subject to the payment of heavy fines, purposes, we understand, to sell his property in that paper for three thousand pounds: whereas the proprietors of the ministerial paper the Courier, who have, during the corresponding period, been enjoying every gratification which power and affluence can confer on them, and acquiring profits, it is said, of £.12,000 per annum, have lately offered their property for sale, but at the price of thirty thousand pounds! We contrast these facts, with no invidious feeling towards either of the parties; but they have appeared to us to be worthy of record, as characteristic of the times, and it cannot hereafter be a matter of wonder to any one who reads this statement, that so few newspapers advocate the cause of truth and the people.

*Phillips' London Monthly Magazine.*

## CONSPIRACY AGAINST FREE INQUIRY.

WE observe a further essay of the enemies of free inquiry, in the announcement of "A North British Review, or Constitutional Journal," in opposition, as the proprietors say, to the principles of the Edinburgh Review. What the principles are, which these Pharisees pro-

BELFAST MAG. NO. LXVIII.

fess to oppose, they have not condescended to explain, and doubtless, ambiguity best answers their purpose; for a perspicuous elucidation might make it appear that they were about to oppose themselves to all those principles which are honourable to men and Britons, and that they are themselves altogether devoid of any principle whatever! As part of a general system, a conspiracy has long existed against that freedom of discussion, which is the basis of public liberty. It was formerly carried on covertly, in holes and corners, but it has of late unblushingly avowed itself, and various attempts have recently been made to bully every public writer into a tame acquiescence in certain pernicious measures, which can only be supported by the suppression of all truth, the extinction of all independence, and the compromise of all those principles and practices which are the just pride and inheritance of Englishmen. It, however, the public writers of the country firmly do their duty, and if the intelligent part of the people resist with proper energy the base attempts to confound truth by insidious slanders against its advocates, and to render falsehood palatable by hypocrisy, we have no doubt of the glorious issue of a literary contest between free-men and slaves.

*Phillips' London Monthly Magazine.*

*The same spirit pervades this country; inciting the tame, the timid, the venal, and the needlessly alarmed, to run down and discountenance patriotism. The aforesaid observations are correctly descriptive of the artifices and calumnies with which the Belfast Magazine has been lately assailed. One spirit actuates the ene-*

*mies of liberty and free discussion in both countries.*

POPULAR DESPAIR ITS OWN CURE.

"A people, when they are reduced unto misery and despair" says Harrington in his *Oceana*, "become their own politicians, as certain beasts, when they are sick, become their own physicians, and are carried by a natural instinct unto the desire of such herbs as are their proper cure."

CURIOUS INSTANCE OF THE FACULTY OF ATTENTION ABSORBING ALL THE POWERS OF PERCEPTION.

The following anecdote shews how completely every feeling may be absorbed by the faculty of attention. An officer, who had the misfortune of being severely wounded in an engagement, notwithstanding all that could be done for him by the most eminent surgeons in London, continued to suffer such excruciating pain, as obliged him to give up the service, and go home to his friends.

In this remote situation, he was attended by a very young practitioner, who, devoting his attention to the

case, declared his belief that a piece of the leather of the belt had been carried by the ball into the shoulder-blade, from whence it might be extracted by an operation. The patient not having sufficient confidence in his skill, consulted higher authority, and in consequence, rejected the proposal; till at length, worn out by suffering, he consented to try the remedy proposed.

The young Surgeon, whose character and success in life were deeply interested in the event, performed the operation with complete success; and having triumphantly produced the fragment which had occasioned so much torture, began to compliment his patient on the fortitude he had displayed during the application of the instrument, as he had not heard him utter the slightest groan. The attendants could scarcely forbear smiling at the speech, as they well knew that the piercing shrieks of the sufferer were so loud as to have been heard at some furlongs distance. So completely in this instance, had the attention of the operator been occupied on the object to which it was directed, as to absorb all the powers of perception.

*Mrs. Hamilton's Popular Essays.*

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

### MELANCHOLY.

"I have neither the scholar's melancholy, which is emulation; nor the musician's which is fantastical; nor the courtier's, which is proud; nor the soldier's, which is ambitious; nor the lawyer's, which is politic; nor the lady's, which is nice; nor the lover's, which is all these: but it is a melancholy of mine own, compounded of many simples; extracted from many objects; in which my often rumination wraps me in a most humorous sadness."

SHAKESPEARE.

COME, Melancholy, meek-ey'd, musing  
maid,  
My earliest, tend'rest, homogeneous friend,  
Come, and attune thy sweetly-plaintive  
lyre;  
And whilst thy notes mellifluous strike my  
ear,  
In apt unlabour'd numbers teach my voice  
Delightfully accordant, thee to sing.

When rose-crown'd pleasure, with enchantment soft,  
And festive mirth, and beauty have conspir'd